

CROSBY

The PRIVATE
JOURNAL OF THE
CROSBY SOCIETY

AUGUST - 1953 + VOLUME 2 + NUMBER 5.

POST

"MISS CROSBY"

All about Bing's
newest leading lady
for "White Christ-
mas".

"I NEVER LEFT HOME"

What Hope said about
Crosby in his famous
story of his wartime
camp shows for the
troops.

THE CROSBY Waxworks

The second of Colin
Pugh's record reviews
telling you all the
latest on disc.

BING and LINNY IN Europe

is continued in our
"Croz-talk" feature
and includes a resume
of his stay in this
country.



The C R O S B Y S O C I E T Y .

Honorary President:-
BING CROSBY.

Active Joint Presidents:-
JEAN RAINEY and
ARTHUR N. ALLEN.

Honorary Vice President:-
LARRY CROSBY.

Active Vice President:-
DOROTHY HARDIMAN.

Sole Honorary Member:-
JIM WILSON.

Society Discologist:-
COLIN PUGH.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

N O T I C E B O A R D .

Mr. JOHNNY JOYCE'S NEWSPAPER CUTTING COMPETITION.

The competition was won by Mr. ROY F. CHAPLIN of, 25, Harrowgate road, Hackney, E.9 who sent in a cutting dated early 1931. The prize of the record was sent to him on June 7th 1953. The society wishes to congratulate Mr. Chaplin and to offer it's thanks to Mr. Joyce for organising this competition and being so gracious as to offer the prize.

=====

MR. E. McDERMOTT of, "FAIRHAVEN", 5, WYNBERG PARK, STRADBROOK, BLACKROCK, County of DUBLIN, IRELAND wishes to sell or exchange the following records which are all in good condition. They are by Bing. Mr. McDermott says they are Crosby vocals with Paul Whiteman orch. on either Columbia or His Master's Voice.

"My Pet" (no Bing backing) "Magnolia" (no Bing backing)
"The Five Step March" + "Dancing Shadows".
"March of Musketeers" + "Ma Belle". "I'm in 7th Heaven" + "Little Pal". "On the Crest of a Wave" (no Bing backing). "I'd Rather be Cry over You" + "In The Evening". "Reaching for Someone" (no Bing backing). "S'posin'" (no Bing backing). "Your Mother and Mine" + "Orange Blossom Time". "happy Feet" + "Bench In The Park".
"That's My Weakness Now" + "Wa Da Da".

E D I T O R ' S C O M M E N T .

Here's another dish of "Crosby Post" with a flavour of Bob Hope and Rosemary Clooney to fill the six pages. We'd like to print your articles instead of filling in with stories of other artists so I can only ask you again to send me that article. If you want a theme how about (a) How you came to like Bing, (b) What do you think is the secret of his success and (c) Why do you think he's remained at the top for 22 years?

If you want something easier why not give a brief outline of the kind of film story you'd like to see Bing in next? We wish to publish as many letters as possible on this topic and if we get quite a few with the same idea we'll be sure to let Bing know about them.

My address is :- Mr. A.N. Allen, 68, Grimston road, Radford, Nottingham.

It seems, from your letters, that we have been guilty of making Bing appear older than he is. Well, that's how he likes it and he thinks it's a joke and would prefer to be thought of as somebody's 'Old Man' than a Hollywood Heartbeat. His success doesn't depend on keeping his 52 years a secret or pretending he has lots of hair. It was the studio's idea that he should wear what he jokingly calls a 'rug' to cover his receding hairline. Nowadays he is even allowed to be seen in public without his toupee.

Next month we hope to feature a special Steve Cronin article titled, "Crosby and Son" - it's about Bing and Lindsay.

Miss Crosby



At present doing the rounds of our local cinemas is a new Paramount musical featuring many stars well known to us. One is Anna Maria Alberghetti who shone in Bing's "Here Comes The Groom" and the other star we have not seen before is Rosemary Clooney. Paramount have repeatedly announced that this first 'Clooney' film was just part of her grooming however her personality has stuck itself permanently in the minds of all who have seen her first motion picture while most people know Miss Clooney for her records. She spent some time recording this song and that song, in fact just anything that the studio decided on until that 'hit' song "Come-on my house" came along. Her recording sold over a million copies.

It was not just a novelty song that brought Rosie into the Big Time for she has shown - since "Come-on a my house" - that she is no mean hand with a ballad.

At Paramount, where the doyen Bing still sets the standard against which all male crooner-actors are measured, Rosemary has been hailed as "Miss Crosby". The company's advertising executive who actually did the hailing added, with unparalleled frankness, which pressed the Bing comparison further: "Don't let anyone try to make her act."

She treats life the same as she sings, tenderly, honestly, without affectation, yet with plenty of what is known politely as intestinal fortitude and impolitely as guts. People she meets get the same treatment.

The first time she met Bing Crosby, who is the idol of other singers as well as run-of-the-mill citizens, she stood speechless and unable to move. Bing made a stab at conversation. "I understand we're going to do a show together soon." Rosie nodded dumbly and Bing tried again. "What's the date of that show anyway?" By now Rosie's eyes were glazed over. "Oh, sometime in the twenties" she said, thinking he meant the period of the picture and not realising that he was obviously enquiring the shooting date.

Later she was able to explain to him that she was not a complete idiot, that she had only been stunned, for later she learned that nothing embarrasses Bing quite so much as people who refuse to relax in his presence. It was after she had learned to talk with him easily that Bing dealt Rosie her favourite compliment. "I think you're the best singer in the business," he said.

It has remained her favourite because it can't be topped. According to Rosie's lights singing a song well is the best thing that can happen to her. She does it continually and is busy all the time singing the tunesmith's product and making perpetual personal appearances.

Last February she finished making "Here Come The Girls" with Bob Hope. She skipped over to New York and quickly journeyed back to Hollywood for a week of engagements which included a premiere in her honour, four radio programmes, assorted tv shows, interviews and tape recording two radio shows with Bing.

She shares an 'honour' with Bing for she is the only other crooner to have her portrait appear on the front cover of 'TIME' magazine and have the publishers buy the portrait from the artist and present it to her.

Rosemary's next film is the 'show' referred to by Bing in their first conversation. She will be the Groaner's leading lady in his new film "White Christmas". It seems to me that Miss Rosie Clooney will suit the old man down to the ground and here's one sure hit for 1953 at Paramount.



A comedian once said that England was the 'land of hope and glory' while the United States of America might be called "The Land Of Hope and Crosby" In this momentous year we offer a selection of what Hope said of Bing in one of his books.

"When I arrived in London I put up at Claridge's Hotel. It is a great place something like our "Stork Club" - I don't mean Crosby's house."

"It was at a hospital where Clark Gable was stationed that I met Colonel John Davis. I'd met John before. He was personal physician to Y. Frank Freeman, president of Paramount Pictures. I remember once that Mr. Freeman and I were returning from seeing one of my pictures in the studio projection room when this same Colonel- now Doctor- John Davis came rushing up to Frank Freeman. He shouted, "Herd you'd seen the latest Hope picture so I came right over."

"Thanks," said Frank. "have you met Hope".

"Pleased to meet you," I said.

"Nice meeting you, too," he replied. "You know, Bob, everytime Frank sees one of your pictures he has the strangest sinking spells."

"What do you do about it?" I asked.

"Oh! I just prescribe a larger dose of Crosby." "

"the trouble with being a comedian is you have to continually worry about new jokes. If I ever come back on earth again I'll be a singer like Crosby. He just strolls into the studio and asks what key they're playing in. And, when he doesn't bother to enquire about the key everybody says, "That Crosby! Nobody can do the things to a song that he does!". I'll be a singer next time - on the radio and if I ever go on as a singer, I'll never go on the radio again."

"We were supposed to do a show for the troops at a cavalry camp about thirty minutes drive from Oxford. When we neared the camp we were met by a large escort of motor cycles. I thought, "Fancy motor cycles at a cavalry camp." I spoke about it to the officer in charge of the escort and he said, "Oh! we using Crosby's horses and they haven't arrived yet."

"On the way to the airport we passed a sign which read "Burton's Infirmary Darts Club". It is no secret that we stopped there and filled in a membership application for Bing Crosby. Where it said "suggested by" we wrote "Rudolf Hess." "

" While I was talking to our plane's pilot, the co-pilot came up and introduced himself as Ravenscroft. He used to work on Crosby's radio programme so that made him sort of a dependant of mine."

"The army trains men for everything. Over in Africa they had Crosby's jockeys teaching the men how to go ten days in the desert without food and water."

"The suit I was wearing was too warm for waering in North Africa so I was given a nice green ensemble in linen. I lived in this for the next three weeks and I'm not kidding when I say I was the best dressed civilian in the country. Anyone with an old mattress or blanket could sell them as a suit to these arabs. Among them Crosby would be Beau Brummel."

The above are extracts from "I Never Left Home". After reading the book Bing Crosby said, "This is a book which, when you put it down you can never pick it up again."

Jan Rainey's



Crosstalk

Bing paid a "private" visit to England in June, staying at the Savoy Hotel, London.

His stay was so secret that even the astute newspaper reporters didn't get a 'sniff'... That is all except one Sunday paper reporter who managed to get hold of a story which ran as follows:-

Bing arrived with Lindsay by air which is a most unusual thing for Bing. They checked in at the Savoy, where Bing very politely refused to take any phone calls from strangers. He called up a friend for a game of golf and at Addington Golf Club course he went round in 74. Nobody asked for his autograph or stared.

In the evening he joined up with a private party of American polo players, turning in well before midnight.

The next day he went shopping with Lindsay, dined privately, and, again, was early to bed.

Golfing again the day after, this time at Sunningdale, with Lindsay. Coming home they stopped and got out of the car at Picadilly. In no time a crowd gathered and people began patting him on the back and shaking his hand - and asking for autographs. In the evening he gave a dinner for Martin and Lewis who later went to the Turpin-Humez fight. Bing went to the Players Theatre in Charing Cross where he sat discreetly in the background and eventually joined in some old time songs with members of the theatre. A few of the audience spotted him and tried to get his autograph but were graciously shoo-ed away by Bing's friend.

Bing said he was shortly going to Ireland to try and seek or, at least, trace his mother's relatives. His mother was a Harrigan of county Cork.

Expert Ben Hogan has been coaching Lindsay in golf tactics. The youngest Crosby will only play with his own set of clubs.

Another time when Bing was driving through London's Park Lane his car had to pull up owing to the traffic being held up while crowds gathered near an Antique Dealer's Fair which was being opened by Princess Margaret. Bing hopped out of the car to get a closer look but was soon recognised and had to jump back in his automobile.

Our last report was that Bing was making for Paris.

I seemed to have upset some of our active members by my remarks last month. I was taken to task for calling them apathetic. This thought was furthest from my mind and so let me say again that I was NOT referring to the active members whom I have always judged as most loyal. Without them the club simply could not exist. A slight error crept into my article which gave the impression that letters to the U.S were cheaper than they really are. AIR MAIL letters are 1/3 for the first ounce (not 1/-) and a GPO AIR MAIL folding letter can be used, costing only 6d. Ordinary letters go for 2½d and not 4d. as stated.

Messrs. Willen Limited, 101, Fleet street, London, E.C.4 are accepting orders for Bing's autobiography, "Call Me Lucky" and the cloth bound copies are 30/- net. Paper backed copies will be cheaper. Arthur tells me that he has been informed that a British publisher is publishing the book over here and it will be much cheaper if you wait a little while. The publishers are arranging for you all to be sent brochures on the book as soon as available.



Colin Pugh takes you around the Crosby Waxworks



Follow Bing Crosby on Brunswick records

The main July issues on Brunswick yield but one Bing disc. On side we have "I Love My Baby" (My Baby Loves Me) with Jud Conlon's Rhythmaires and John Scott Trotter's Orchestra. This is backed with "Mother Darlin'" with Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians. Cat. no. 05136.

A short while ago we were getting a fairly regular and reasonable number of Crosby issues, but now it would appear they are back in the depths of doom. Since the main releases last March we have had only 8 releases of Brunswick records from which we have gleaned only 4 Bing discs, this including the present July issue.

Should there be anyone who is not aware of the advantages of Long Playing Records, the following facts should be quite interesting. The ordinary shellac record with which we are all familiar, has an average of 100 grooves to the inch and plays at 78 Revs per minute, whereas an L.P. record has grooves $2\frac{1}{2}$ times closer (250 per inch) and plays at a speed of 33.33 Revs per minute. These two factors result in a greatly extended playing time per side, hence their title "Long Playing". One of the chief advantages of these LP's lies in their silent surfaces, especially when compared to the hiss to which our ears have grown accustomed over the years and which is so inherent in shellac discs. A second point which means more to a collector than a casual player, is that they are unbreakable, that is to say a normal mishap does not have the same disastrous effect that it does on 78 rpm discs. The reproduction of an L.P., apart from requiring a motor giving the required slow speed of 33.33, also requires a featherweight pick-up with a suitable fixed stylus or reproducing point. Providing this pick-up head is regularly serviced this combination of features results in such a reduction of record wear that it becomes almost negligible. The first few advantages coupled with the new and better material from which L.P.'s are pressed, give us yet a further refinement easily noticeable as truer reproduction. Another point still is uninterrupted reproduction on the L.P. record of a series of songs. For the Crosby collector this will have fewer applications than for the more serious music lover, but for such items as "Ballad For Americans", "The Small One" "Ichabod Crane", etc., L.P. is eminently desirable. Finally there is the matter of storage space, and when you consider that an L.P. usually has four times as much recorded material as a 78 disc, the saving in this direction will be readily appreciated.

Having thus recounted the virtues of L.P. it is only fair to note their failings, but these are not in any way serious. Their surfaces are very prone to develop static electricity which attracts particles of dust. This is noticeable when playing but a slightly damped cloth over the surface will remedy this. There is a slight drop in volume as compared to ordinary 78 discs but with average good playing equipment this is easily overcome. There is also the point of unwanted material with many separate items on one disc, but this will not worry the collector so much as the casual buyer.

Here are two more Long Playing releases:- LA 8600 - BING SINGS VICTOR HERBET SONGS. "I'm Falling In Love With Someone", "Gypsy Love Song", "Ah! Sweet Mystery Of Life", "Sweethearts", "When You're Away", "Thine Alone", "I might be your once in a while" (not issued on 78) & "Indian Summer". LA 8602 - BLUE SKIES. "Blue Skies", "I'll See You In Cuba", "You Keep Coming Back Like A Song", "Getting Nowhere All By Myself", "I've Got My Captain Working For Me Now", "Song and Dance Men" and "Puttin' On The Ritz" (Not Bing -Astaire solo.)

+++++++ An 'X' in this space on the left indicates that your
+ membership is about to expire. If you wish to renew
+++++++ kindly send your subs to Mrs. D. Hardiman. Thankyou.